

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to provide appropriate headings and to correct several formal errors therein. Claims 1 through 11 have been canceled. Claims 12-22 have been added.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite, pointing out specific language in claims 1 and 9 rendering these claims and claims dependent thereon indefinite. As noted above, claims 1-11 have been canceled.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 12-22 comply with all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

II. Rejection Over the Prior Art

The Examiner rejected claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Streubel et al., WO 02/090 019 (with the corresponding U.S. Patent No. 7,025,118 used as a translation).

It is respectfully submitted that claims 12-22 are patentable over Streubel et al., claims 1-11 having been canceled.

Specifically, claim 12 recites a method comprising the steps of indirectly measuring a movable amount of a core liquid volume by direct measurement of generated process parameters on fixed or adjustable individual support rollers (6a) or groups (7) of fixed or adjustable support roller pairs (7a) with signal transmitters (10) which generate respective force and/or path signals; producing a calculation model (15) for a momentary position of the solidification point (1a) based on the force and/or path signals; and continuously adjusting changeable casting parameters based on the produced calculation model.

It is respectfully submitted that Streubel et al. does not disclose or even suggests producing a calculation model (15) for a momentary position of the solidification point (1a) based on the force and/or path signals, and continuously adjusting changeable casting parameters based on the produced calculation model.

Streubel et al. is based on completely different principle, namely, on maintaining the sump melt-cavity tip (solidification point) approximately constant in the SR (soft-reduction) stretch (col. 2, lines 42-50, the '118 patent). This is achieved in Streubel et al. by controllably reducing the strand thickness between the SR stretch and the mold by adjusting roller of a respective roller pair (claim 1, (c), the '118 patent).

According to the present invention, the casting parameters are changed based on momentary position of the solidification point that does not necessarily remain approximately constant.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Streubel et al. does not anticipate or makes obvious the present invention as defined by claim 12, and claim 12 is patentable over Streubel et al. and is allowable.

Claims 13-21 depend on claim 12 and are allowable of the same reason claim 12 is allowable and further because of specific features recited therein which, when taken alone and/or in combination with those of claim 12, are not disclosed or suggested in the prior art.

Claim 22 recites an apparatus for affecting the method of claims 12-21 and is allowable for the same reasons claim 12 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal

discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander Zinchuk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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